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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I write to urge you to support broadband competition and to allow competitive broadband provider the "last mile" access they need.

I am a computer scientist that lives in Palo Alto, in the middle of Silicon Valley. One might think that this should guarantee great Internet access, but this is not the case at all.

I need high reliability, so I use two ISPs -- both cable and VDSL and a dual WAN router with a cellular modem fallback.

For cable my only choice is Comcast although it is both expensive and unreliable even with a business line, which I have. (I had several multi-hour outages from the beginning of the year, and numerous incidents of performance well under promised QoS).

For VDSL I used to have ATT U-verse but it was a mess -- could never get the promised speed, their interface was not working correctly with my dual wan router, etc. (Unfortunately it seems that their main area of competition with Comcast is misleading advertising, one year contracts that double the cost when ending, and piling fees, not offering better service. Dealing by phone with their tech support was a nightmare.)

Now I use Sonic, a local provider. They provide both VDSL and POTS -- I am very happy with them, they give excellent service, a relatively fair price, and their techies know their job.

Note that In Palo Alto, supposedly the 24'th best connected city in CA, the 3 providers above is all what is available in terms of residential providers. The only other ISPs are fixed wireless, satellite, or cellular -- none of them offers enough capacity for what I need. There is no fiber provider.

Bottom line, please maintain a competitive market in broadband services! It is the only way we will get better and less expensive service.

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